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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Koichi SANPEI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3742

Application No.: 10/739,221

Examiner: J. Pelham

Filed: December 19, 2003

Docket No.: 118125

For: HEAT ROLLER AND METHOD OF FABRICATING THE SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the July 22, 2004 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-2, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claims 1-5 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 10, 2004

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